What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating a patient having melanoma which has been surgically removed, which comprises administering to such a patient a therapeutically effective dose of pegylated interferon alpha for a time period sufficient to increase progression-free survival time.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the pegylated interferon is pegylated interferon alpha-2a or pegylated interferon alpha-2b.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the patient is a treatment-naive patient.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the treatment-naive patient is one having newly diagnosed melanoma.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the patient is treatment-experienced patient.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the treatment experienced patient is intolerant to interferon alpha or resistant to interferon alpha.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the time period is at least about 24 months.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the pegylated interferon alpha administered after surgical excision of the primary melanoma.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the pegylated interferon alpha is pegylated interferon alpha-2b and the effective amount is in the range of about 3.0 micrograms/kg to 9.0 micrograms/kg administered once a week.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the pegylated interferon alpha is pegylated alpha-2a and the effective amount is in the range of about 200 microgram to 250 administered once a week.

11. A method of treating a patient having cutaneous melanoma which has been surgically removed which comprises administering to said patient an effective amount of pegylated interferon-alpha once a week for a time period sufficient to increase progression-free survival time.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the pegylated interferon alpha is pegylated interferon alpha-2b and the effective amount is in the range of about 3.0 micrograms/kg to 9.0 micrograms/kg administered once a week.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the pegylated interferon alpha is pegylated alpha-2a and the effective amount is in the range of about 200 microgram to 250 administered once a week.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein the time period is at least about 100 weeks.

15. A method of treating a patient having cutaneous melanoma which comprises administering to such a patient about 3.0 micrograms/kg to about 9.0 micrograms/kg of pegylated interferon alpha-2b once a week for a time period sufficient to increase the progression-free survival time.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the time period is about 100 weeks.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein about 4.5 to about 6.5 micrograms/kg of pegylated interferon alpha-2b is administered once a week.

18. A method comprising the step of marketing a therapeutically effective dose of pegylated interferon alpha for administration to a patient with melanoma within about 60 days of surgery in a protocol extending for a time period of at least about 100 weeks.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the pegylated interferon alpha is pegylated interferon alpha-2b and the effective amount is in the range of about 3.0 micrograms/kg to 9.0 micrograms/kg administered once a week.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein the pegylated interferon alpha is pegylated alpha-2a and the effective amount is in the range of about 200 microgram to 250 administered once a week.